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**THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

October 23, 2015

Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Cable Broadband is an extremely valuable tool in today's 21<sup>st</sup> century world. It is a tool that transcends our professional and personal lives, and is responsible for the economic development of many industry sectors. Nearly all businesses now rely on broadband, and that relationship will only grow as our economy continues to innovate. I believe the cable broadband industry would benefit from the merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks, and I hope the move is accepted.

The merger would bring together the best of the three companies into New Charter. Consumers of all needs would benefit from the merger, particularly those living in rural and underserved regions. New Charter would engage these often overlooked customers through a series of investment projects that aim to bring the latest technologies to all. For example, New Charter would invest in both residential and commercial networks. The work would include billions of dollars of investment and would ensure consumers of all needs gained from fast and reliable technology.

New Charter would also bring all customers into a fully digital platform. Charter has already invested enormously in this project, and communities across the country can attest to its benefits. In addition, New Charter would deploy 300,000 out-of-home WiFi hotspots in order to keep up with the demands of mobile technology. Each of these investment initiatives signal a great understanding of consumer needs. I encourage you to consider the impacts on rural development and approve the merger.

Sincerely,

Senator Wayne Schmidt  
Michigan State Senate  
District 37